

that is developing. Instead of producing milk, beef, butter and eggs farms are lying idle, unworked because farmers can make more in wages and salaries in the cities. One farmer pointed out that he has quit farming and taken up carpentry because he can make more money. These people should be encouraged to produce food.

At the same time, the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Whelan) says we must have good farmers in order to maintain a productive farm economy. The only way to keep people down on the farm is to enable a decent profit to be earned from farming. We await policies of the government designed to achieve this objective. We wait in vain for any kind of guaranteed income. We wait in vain for any kind of support price or for any kind of policy to meet the needs of our farmers.

We welcome these tariff adjustments because they may offer assistance in certain quarters but as far as I am concerned this is a tidying-up bill; it is designed to tidy-up some of the loose ends but does not represent any change in policy and will not result in any material improvement in our economy. The government must give real direction to our agricultural economy in order that we can produce the things the people need.

[Translation]

Mr. Réal Caouette (Témiscamingue): Mr. Speaker, further to the remarks of the former speaker and the financial critic of the official opposition, we feel it might be well to remind the government of its responsibilities towards the overall Canadian economy and more specifically in the fields of exports and imports.

Obviously, we must import especially what we do not produce, and export what we produce in abundance. Only, let us not believe that imports and exports alone will solve the economic problem in Canada, that they alone will favour an economic system capable of allowing Canadians to benefit from the progress of their country, which, basically, is built and developed by them. According to us, the Social Credit Party, the objective should be serving the Canadian consumers, organizing our economy in such a way that it can meet the needs of Canadian consumers.

We have seen paradoxes in the past, and we are seeing even more of them now, with some farmers faced with the problem of surpluses of milk, butter and cheese, complaining that they are selling their products at a loss. We are importing dairy products from New Zealand, Australia, Switzerland and Denmark; we are buying eggs from New Zealand and butter from a number of countries, but at the same time we have a surplus of millions of pounds of this product in Canada.

The same is true of meat. At one point we have a meat shortage perhaps because we have exported a little too much. On the other hand, we import meat from the United States and other countries. Of course, we try to export our surpluses, but without much success, for the very reason that we import too much, and our imports are always in the name of international trade, though we have no need for these products. We are told that we should encourage such and such a country.

Last winter, for example, I was in Jamaica and a black who was serving me at the hotel where I was staying asked me whether we still sold sardines in Canada. So I

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asked him: But what sort of sardines do you want to buy from Canada? He had trouble pronouncing the name "Brunswick", but he liked that brand of sardines, and he said that it had been impossible to get any for the past two years. The Minister of Finance (Mr. Turner) might perhaps take note of that. There is an export market for our "Brunswick" sardines, which are appreciated in Jamaica.

● (1540)

Mr. Turner (Ottawa-Carleton): We will give you a commission.

Mr. Caouette (Témiscamingue): The minister is offering me a commission as a salesman for Canadian sardines in Jamaica. We shall use it.

Mr. Speaker, in many areas, we must indeed correct our range, adjust our trade with other countries. If a Creditiste government were in power, we could also enter into agreements with other countries, especially those which produce goods that do not produce in Canada. Nevertheless, this is no reason for punishing the farmers, the producers, the industries and the manufacturers.

It seems to me that the primary market for Parliament, this government and the Department of Industry, Trade and Commerce is indeed our domestic market, that is, the 22 million people living in Canada. It is the market whose needs should be met first.

Everyone knows that currently Canada is short not only of food but also of clothing, farm machinery and many other things because precisely people cannot afford to buy those commodities whereas countries which can no more afford it can purchase those goods through loans granted by the Canadian government. In fact, if India is in need of Canadian commodities, it is granted millions to purchase them here. During the 1972 election campaign, the current Minister of Communications (Mr. Pelletier) told me on television that credit to foreign countries should exist so as to enable them to buy from Canada. And the minister asked me on television: "Why do you not tell that on television?" It is exactly what I was saying. India will buy from Canada, the Rouyn-Noranda municipality would also buy from Canada as India does if it could be granted interest free loans. Montreal—Mayor Jean Drapeau's city—would do the same: It would buy from Canada for the 1976 Olympic Games. Certainly the minister was wrong when discussing this question. I admit that to get votes you can invent about anything but honesty should be respected.

A \$100 million loan was granted to Algeria; this country has changed its government through revolution and is headed by Communists—yes, by Communists, for the guidance of the minister looking at me—and series of murders have been committed to impose the current government.

Mr. Knight: What about Spain and Portugal?

Mr. Caouette (Témiscamingue): It is the same thing! They did the same in Cuba. As for Communist China, we have ignored it for years; today it has become the guardian angel of the Minister of Communications.